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other causes, *i. e.*, to physical, chemical and mechanical peculiarities of the soil (Hiltner's account). Dr. Hiltner's own observations date from the discovery of a browning of the root hairs. He states that often in his germination experiments he had observed that a part of the root hairs on certain seedling beets would be colored brown and peculiarly shortened. When examined under a hand lens these hairs were seen to be mere brown points instead of long tubes. Seeds from a lot which germinated well, and produced seedlings that showed this browning of the root hairs to a marked degree, came up badly when planted in garden earth, and those which did grow afterwards developed the root-burn, the characteristic constriction occurring just where the sound root hairs were wanting. Hellriegel's treatment was repeated. After soaking the beet balls in a solution of carbolic acid the root hairs remained perfectly sound, and there was no subsequent root-burn. The parasite, however, is not a fungus but a bacterium. "In each epidermal cell of the root which bore a stunted hair there was to be found a specific bacterium, and to this is to be attributed the final destruction of the root." It is not stated whether the organism was isolated from the roots, or whether any infection experiments were undertaken. The context would lead one to think nothing of this sort was attempted.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Journey Through Mongolia and Thibet.¹—This volume is 413 pages, is published in octavo form under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution. It is an account of the travels of Mr. Rockhill in Mongolia and Thibet, based on a diary kept during the journey. The variety of subjects touched upon by the author in his descriptions of the country traversed, and the people with whom he was brought in contact, gives this volume a peculiar interest. Appendices to the diary

¹ Diary of a journey through Mongolia and Thibet in 1891 and 1892. By William Woodville Rockhill. Published by Smithsonian Institution, 1894.

contain information regarding the Solar and San-Ch'uan T'u jen vocabularies, the plants of Thibet, and the mean monthly temperature. A route map of the explorations made by the author, and a table of latitudes, altitudes, etc., accompany the book. The illustrations are numerous, comprising page plates and cuts in the text.

Publications of the United States Geological Survey for 1893-4. **FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.**²—This work is issued in two parts. Part I containing the Report of the Director on the operations of the Survey of 1892-92 administration, together with several reports. Part II comprises the accompanying papers embodying the results of the topographic and hydrographic work of the survey, and of the geographical investigations carried on through its aid. These researches were prosecuted chiefly in Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland, in Vermont and Massachusetts, in certain Rocky Mountain areas, and the Pacific coast region.

The illustrations are numerous, comprising 76 plates and 75 figures and diagrams.

A MANUAL OF TOPOGRAPHIC METHODS.³—This manual is one of the series of monographs published by the United States Geological Survey in quarto form. Its object, as stated by the author in his introduction, is to present a description of the topographic work, instruments and methods used by the United States Geological Survey primarily for the information of the men engaged upon this work. The manual is accompanied by a collection of constants and tables used in the reduction of astronomical observations for position, of triangulation, of light measurements, and other operations connected with the making of topographic maps, and is illustrated by eighteen plates showing types of topography.

MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES.⁴—This report for the calendar year 1893 is the tenth in the series. The subject-matter includes: First, a statement of the mineral products; secondly, the industrial conditions affecting these products; and thirdly, recent additions

² Fourteenth Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey, 1892-93. Part I.—Report of the Director. Washington, 1893. Part II.—Accompanying Papers. Washington, 1894.

³ Monographs of the United States Geological Survey, Vol. XXII. A Manual of Topographic Methods. By Henry Gannett. Washington, 1893.

⁴ Mineral Resources of the United States for the Calendar Year 1893. By David T. Day. Washington, 1894.